GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2325
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2002
HIKE IN FARE BY INDIAN AIRLINES FOR NORTH EAST SECTOR
MONI KUMAR SUBBA

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines have increased the air fares for the North-East sector;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether four-five seater aircraft are acquired or being acquired by the Government to improve air connectivity in the North-East sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN)

(a): Yes, Sir. Indian Airlines / Alliance Air have revised fare effective 15th February, 2002 in the North-East sectors ranging between 10% to 15%. Even after this increase the fares in the North-East are 12.5% lower than the fares in the comparable sectors in the rest of India. (b): The cost of operation in North-East sectors are higher than the rest of India due to reasons like: Short Haul Sector operations; Frequent landings leading to high expenses on landing and navigational charges; Operational limitations such as absence of night landing facilities, sun set restrictions; and Absence of subsidy from the Government to compensate the losses.

(c) and (d): In order to improve air connectivity in North-East, Indian Airlines has been advised to acquire 50 seater aircraft on lease basis. The tenders have already been invited and are under evaluation.